

The Steidingers *Matt, Janelle, Mariah, Jaelah, Luke, Sierra*

~~~~~ Missionaries to the Amazon ~~~~~

Winter 2020



Team from New Life Lutheran January 2020



For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **ISAIAH 9:6-7**

Last year we had a hard time squeezing a year of recap into two pages. This year...well, you can guess. So here goes a less abbreviated recap of 2020: **January:** Back when things still felt "normal", Mariah headed back to the states by herself to study at a YWAM school. Janelle was a little stressed when Mariah missed the international leg of her flight due to weather delays and had to spend the night in Sao Paulo. Thankfully the airline took care of all the details and the trip went relatively smoothly after that. Also, we were blessed with a team from New Life Lutheran Church (Sterling, IL). They traveled to Manicore, ministered here in Humaita, and spent the night in Calama. Great teaching on parenting, ministry and family! **February:** Janelle's parents came to visit us in Humaita and were excited to see where we live. Her dad had been to the state of Amazonas 30 years ago (long before we ever thought about coming here), but her mom had never visited this state. Matt and Jaelah took a flight to Manicore. **March:** Baptisms in the region of Auxiliadora! Praise the Lord for what the local worker calls a "revival" in his area. Janelle also helped host an evangelistic womens' tea with the ladies from the local church, with a great turnout. Unfortunately, that was just before Covid closed everything down. **April:** First effects of Covid began. We stopped meeting for church and cell group here in Humaita. Matt completed the annual mechanical inspection on the RV6A. **May:** Janelle and Matt's birthdays celebrated while we spent a lot of time at home. Pastor Frank spent this time of COVID out on the river with his family for six weeks. During this time, he was able to help the national workers enter and firm up many of the local works. Jaelah had scarlet fever. She wouldn't call this a highlight, but it was definitely memorable as it got bad quickly over a weekend until we could get her to the doctor. **July:** Frank and Matt flew to Itacoatiara, a city at the mouth of the Madeira River. Frank visited a few local churches while Matt gave flight training to a Brazilian missionary that is working on his getting his pilot's license. This trip of 3.5 hours in the plane would have taken 2 days by speedboat. Also church and cell groups resumed.





**Baptisms in the region of Manicore; November 2020**

**Aug—Sept:** We were back in the US to put Mariah in college. Jaelah took the ACT and Matt and Luke helped with harvest. **October:** Just a week after Luke and Matt arrived from the US, the mission had its second Missions Conference. Wow, we were blown away when people from 13 communities arrived to learn more about our relationship with Christ and how we can work together to advance His kingdom. It was a wild time to get everything organized and then to figure out how to get everyone back home as the public transportation out to the river villages is slow and expensive. Praise the Lord for people like you that donate to the Transportation Fund!

**November:** Janelle's Christian psychologist friend visited again this year. The girls (Janelle, Jaelah, Sierra and Nerilda) took a recreational boat 18 hours downriver to minster in the river communities. Matt was nice enough to organize some speedboats to pick up his family and then picked up Nerilda by airplane the next week. The next day he was back in the plane to witness 11 souls make a public testimony in the form of water baptism. Many more were touched by this event and we expect another day of baptisms soon!

**December:** Our cell group here in Humaita continues to grow so we are praying about where to multiply and discipling new leaders. The airplane hangar doors were damaged during a bad thunderstorm so Matt is taking this opportunity to give Luke some Industrial Tech classes (welding, etc) 😊. Mariah is planning to spend Christmas and New Years here so we are all looking forward to that (COVID travel restrictions permitting?!). We are excited for this season to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. We are here in the Amazon preparing for His 2nd Coming! *Merry Christmas*

*from the Steidingers!*

**Donations:**

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**Standing room only at our cell group— PTL!**

**Praise:**

> Wisdom from God! Thankful for the group of pilots / mechanics that make up the *Aviation Committee*. After Matt's hard landing in the Bearhawk, it wasn't required to tear down the engine, but the committee decided that was the best route. In November a mechanic came to help Matt take the engine apart and they found the flange of the crankshaft was cracked! Wow, another set back, but thankful that a potential accident was avoided.

> Even with all the uncertainty of 2020, praise the Lord we are having weekly meetings in 26 communities. The national workers have visited 27 additional villages and we are praying for "people of peace" to be found in each of these with a goal of starting discipleship / small groups in 2021.

**Prayer:**

> For wisdom, humility, and love as we continue to walk the path Jesus is leading us on.

> Join us as we pray the same prayer Jesus prayed; **the harvest is ripe, but the workers are few— please ask our Father to send more!**